

Black Slurs on Jews

Dictionary of Antisemitism: From the Earliest Times to the Present

by Robert Michael and Philip Rosen

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In the civil rights struggles of the mid-twentieth century, Jews and African Americans were partners in the fight for equal rights. Yet in these blessed times of cooperation there were signs of anti-Semitism among key black leaders.

In 1967 Stokely Carmichael, leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, stated that "the only good Zionist is a dead Zionist."

Author Richard Wright explained the origins of anti-Semitism in the black community when he wrote, "All of us black people hated Jews, not because they exploited us, but because we had been taught at home and in Sunday school that Jews were 'Christ killers.' To hold an attitude of antagonism or distrust toward Jews was bred in us from childhood; it was not merely racial prejudice, it was part of our cultural heritage."

The hatred of Jews among African Americans became particularly strident with the rise of the black Muslims. Malcolm X said in 1963, "The Jew never shows the Negro how to set up factories and hotels. Never advises him how to own what he wants. When there's something worth owning, the Jew's got it. Walk up and down in any Negro ghetto. Ninety percent of the worthwhile businesses are Jew-owned. Every night they take the money out."

Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, has a long history of anti-Semitism. In 1994 he said, "The Jews don't like Farrakhan so they call me Hitler. Well, that's a good name. Hitler was a very great man."

Perhaps the most offensive of the black anti-Semites is Khalid Abdul Muhammad, former national spokesman for the Nation of Islam and, later, leader of the New Black Panther Party. At a 1993 address at Kean College in New Jersey, Muhammad said, "I call them bloodsuckers. It's that old no-good Jew, that old imposter Jew, that old hooked-nose, bagel-eating, lox-eating, Johnny-come-lately perpetrating a fraud, just climbed out of the caves and hills of Europe, so-called damn Jew. I don't care who sits in the White House. The Jews control that seat."

The long history of anti-Semitism throughout the world is documented in the new *Dictionary of Antisemitism* by Robert Michael and Philip Rosen. Included are examples of anti-Semitism among blacks. But these entries are only a small sampling of all the documented cases of anti-Semitism included in the book.